

Message Text

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FOR GEORGE THIGPEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ECE

SUBJECT:ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON EC STRESS
GRADING STANDARD

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO MR. WILLIAM
TOWNSLEY AT THE ADDRESS BELOW NO LATER THAN COB TUESDAY

DECEMBER 14. TRANSMIT ON PLAIN PAPER, NO LETTERHEAD.

MR. W.C. TOWNSLEY, DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS, U.K. AND EUROPE,
COFI, TEMPLAR HOUSE, 81, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.
IV 6LS.

DEAR MR. TOWNSLEY: AS YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADHOC
COMMITTEE ARE AWARE, WE IN THE U.S. FEEL STRONGLY THAT IF
THE ECE STANDARD IS TO BE A WORKABLE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
ONE OF THE TWO GRADES IN THE ECE STANDARD SHOULD BE
LINED UP WITH THE GRADES THAT ARE IN EXISTANCE IN THE U.S.
CANADA AND JAPAN. THE EQUIVALENT QUALITY LEVEL WE PROPOSE

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WHICH HAS BEEN USED SUCCESSFULLY IN THE U.S. FOR
OVER 50 YEARS TO BUILD MILLIONS OF HOUSES, PROVIDES
MAXIMUM AND EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF THE TIMBER
RESOURCE. THE ECE GRADE THAT IS CLOSEST TO AN EXISTING

GRADE IN THE U.S. IS EC2.

ENCLOSED IS OUR PROPOSAL FOR AMENDING EC2 AND CERTAIN OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ECE STANDARD SO THAT IT WILL BE CLOSER IN LINE WITH THE NO. 2 GRADE EXISTING IN THE NORTH AMERICAN STANDARD. ALSO ATTACHED IS OUR EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES. AS YOU CAN SEE THE EC2 GRADE CAN BE CHANGED TO CONFORM TO THE NO.2 GRADE IN NORTH AMERICA WITH ONLY MINIMAL CHANGES. OUR COMMENTS PERTAIN ONLY TO EC2, AS WE HAVE FOUND VERY LITTLE, IF ANY, INTEREST IN EC1 IN NORTH AMERICA.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL CHANGES PROPOSED DO NOT LOOSEN THE GRADE BUT IN SOME AREAS TIGHTEN THE GRADE. WE FEEL THAT OUR PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S. AND CANADA BECAUSE IT WOULD ALLOW THE PRODUCERS IN BOTH OF THOSE COUNTRIES TO SHIP AN ALREADY ESTABLISHED COMMODITY PRODUCT TO EUROPE. THIS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE IT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BUY AN EFFICIENT, ECONOMICAL COMMODITY PRODUCT, RATHER THAN A SPECIAL GRADE OF LUMBER NOT NOW PRODUCED IN NORTH AMERICA WHICH WOULD INVOLVE TRAINING GRADERS, MAKING A SEPARATE SORT OF LUMBER AND OTHER ATTENDANT PROBLEMS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THE NORTH AMERICAN NO.2 HAS MET WITH GOOD ACCEPTANCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THUS THE U.S. PROPOSED GRADE LEVEL WHICH IS ALMOST THE SAME AS THE NORTH AMERICAN NO. 2 GRADE LEVEL WOULD BE SERVICEABLE AS AN EC2 GRADE.

THE PREFACE OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S 29TH SESSION IN OCTOBER, 1974 (E/ECE/TIM/WP.3/AC.3/2) STATES IN PART "IT FELT THAT THE PROJECT WAS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE...AND ENCOURAGE MORE RATIONAL AND ECONOMIC USE OF A COSTLY RAW MATERIAL. IT WOULD ALLOW A MORE PROFITABLE CONVERSION FOR THE SAWMILL, AVOID REGRADING..." WE FEEL OUR PROPOSAL WILL MEET THESE AND OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THIS EFFORT.
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WE REQUEST THAT THIS PROPOSAL BE GIVEN FORMAL CONSIDERATION BY THE FULL AD HOC COMMITTEE AND BY ALL APPROPRIATE SUBCOMMITTEES AND/OR WORKING GROUPS AND FURTHER REQUEST THAT OUR PROPOSAL BE DIRECTED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE TIME TO REVIEW IT PRIOR TO THE JUNE MEETING. IT IS OUR STRONG FEELING THAT AT LEAST ONE GRADE WITHIN THE STANDARD MUST LINE UP WITH A COMPARABLE NORTH AMERICAN GRADE IF THE U.S. IS TO SUPPORT THE ECE STANDARD.

YOUR CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROPOSAL IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED. SINCERELY, THOMAS D. SEARLES, SECRETARY MANAGER.

KNOTS: OUR PROPOSAL CONCERNING KNOT SIZES DIFFERS IN TWO WAYS FROM THE EC2 PROPOSAL:

(1) WHEN TWO OR MORE KNOTS OCCUR IN THE SAME CROSS SECTION IT PERMITS THEM TO BE ASSESSED BY 1/2 OF THE TOTAL KAR RATHER THAN 1/3 OF THE TOTAL KAR. OUR PROPOSAL DOES NOT PERMIT A SINGLE KNOT LOCATED AT THE EDGE OF A WIDE FACE (MARGIN AREA) TO BE ANY LARGER THAN THE ECE PROPOSAL.

(2) OUR PROPOSAL CONCERNING NARROW FACE OR SPIKE KNOTS LIMITS THESE TYPE KNOTS TO 1/3 TOTAL KAR, AND IS A CONSIDERABLE TIGHTENING OF THE EC2 PROPOSAL WHICH PERMITS KNOTS THAT RUN FROM ONE NARROW FACE TO THE OPPOSITE NARROW FACE TO BE 1/2 TOTAL KAR.

SLOPE OF GRAIN: OUR PROPOSAL SUGGEST RESTRICTING THE SLOPE OF GRAIN REQUIRED FROM 1:6 TO 1:8. THIS CHANGE IS PROPOSED TO HARMONIZE THE QUALITY LEVEL WITH OTHER CHARACTERISTICS PERMITTED IN THIS GRADE CATEGORY.

RATE OF GROWTH: WE RECOMMEND ELIMINATING RATE OF GROWTH REQUIREMENT FOR THIS GRADE.

FISSURES: THE SLIGHT CHANGES MADE IN THIS PROVISION WERE TO HARMONIZE THE ECE PROPOSAL WITH NORTH AMERICAN PRACTICE.

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WANE: OUR PROPOSAL IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN PRACTICE AND THE EC2 PROPOSAL. IT PERMITS SLIGHTLY MORE WANETO OCCUR AT THE END OF THE PIECE WHICH PROVIDES BETTER UTILIZATION OF THE HIGH QUALITY PIECES OCCURING ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE LOG.

DISTORTION: IT IS OUR FEELING THAT MORE DISTORTION SHOULD BE PERMITTED IN THE LOWER GRADE OF EC2 THAN IN THE HIGHER GRADE OF EC1. WE HAVE ENCLOSED THE LIMITS WE PROPOSE IN WRITTEN FORM AND IN TABULAR FORM WHERE APPROPRIATE. COMPARABLE LIMITS FOR DISTORTION HAVE BEEN USED IN NORTH AMERICA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS WITH GOOD RESULTS.

REFERENCE TO 1. "SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION": OUR PROPOSAL ADDS A PROVISION REFERRING TO SURFACED LUMBER.

REFERENCE TO 4.1 "GRADE REQUIREMENTS": OUR PROPOSAL ADDRESSES THE CONCEPTS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 4.1 OF ECE BY MAKING MORE EXPLICIT SOME OF THE LIMITATION ON DECAY.

U.S. PROPOSAL FOR AMENDING EC2 OF THE ECE RECOMMENDED STANDARD FOR STRESS GRADING OF CONIFEROUS SAWN TIMBER

1. SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

THIS RECOMMENDED STANDARD COVERS STRUCTURAL LOAD-BEARING CONIFEROUS TIMBER WITH BASIC SAWN DIMENSIONS OF NOT LESS THAN 38MM THICKNESS AND 75MM WIDTH. THE TOLERANCES IN DIMENSIONS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISO/R 738-1968. REGULARIZING, PROVIDING IT DOES NOT REMOVE MORE THAN 1MM, DOES NOT IMPLY A CHANGE IN GRADE.

FOR SURFACED LUMBER THE QUALITY OF DRESSING SHALL CONFORM TO NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS AS PUBLISHED IN THE NATIONAL GRADING RULE.

THE RECOMMENDED STANDARD DEFINES TWO VISUAL STRESS GRADES, PROVISIONALLY DESIGNATED EC1 AND EC2 AND TWO MACHINE STRESS GRADES MEC1 AND MEC2, AND SPECIFIES THE CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE SATISFIED FOR THE ACCEPTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF MACHINE STRESS GRADED TIMBER.

IT IS HOWEVER RECOGNIZED THAT THE NEED MAY EXIST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL GRADES IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE AND THEIR USE IS NOT PRECLUDED.

THE PERMISSIBLE LIMITS OF KNOTS ARE SPECIFIED IN TERMS OF KNOT AREA RATIOS (KAR).

KNOTS MAY BE ASSESSED BY THIS METHOD OF MEASUREMENT BUT OTHER METHODS ARE ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED THEY ARE BASED ON KNOT DISPLACEMENT AND THEIR EQUIVALANCE WITH THE KAR METHOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

4.1 ANY PIECE WHICH CONTAINS CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS COMPRESSION WOOD, MECHANICAL DAMAGE, COMBINATION OF KNOTS, OR OTHER UNUSUAL COMBINATIONS OF CHARACTERISTICS WHICH SERIOUSLY AFFECT SERVICEABILITY, IS EXCLUDED FROM THE GRADE.

WHEN CHARACTERISTICS ARE NOT LISTED THEY ARE APPRAISED IN RELATION TO THE CHARACTERISTICS PERMITTED OR LIMITATIONS PRESCRIBED FOR THE GRADE, AND ARE ALLOWED IF EQUIVALENT OR LESS DAMAGING IN EFFECT ON THE STRENGTH, APPEARANCE, OR OTHER UTILITY VALUE OF THE PIECE.

DECAY, OTHER THAN THE TYPE WHICH WILL NOT PROGRESS AFTER CONVERSION AND SEASONING (E.G. WHITE POCKET DECAY DERIVED FROM THE TREE) IS PROHIBITED.

TWO VISUAL STRESS GRADES CALLED EC1 AND EC2 ARE SPECIFIED.
TO QUALIFY FOR A GRADE, A PIECE SHALL NOT CONTAIN
CHARACTERISTICS WHICH EXCEED THE LIMITS GIVEN IN TABLE
1 (EXAMPLES OF KNOTS WHICH FALL INTO EC1 AND EC2 GRADES
ARE SHOWN IN FIGURE 8) AND IN ADDITION:

WHERE TWO OR MORE KNOTS, OR GROUPS OF KNOTS, BOTH

WITH KNOT AREA RATIOS EXCEEDING 90 PERCENT OF THE
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PERMISSIBLE RATIO, ARE SEPARATED IN A LENGTHWISE
DIRECTION BY A DISTANCE OF LESS THAN HALF THE WIDTH
OF THE PIECE, THE PIECE SHALL NOT QUALIFY FOR THE GRADE.

SPASTAIN IS NOT A STRUCTURAL DEFECT.

TABLE 1A

PERMISSIBLE LIMITS FOR THE EC2 VISUAL STRESS GRADE

CHARACTERISTIC (SEE DEFINITIONS)	GRADE EC2
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KNOTS	WHEN A MARGIN KAR EXCEEDS 1/2, THE KAR OF ANY SINGLE KNOT SHALL NOT EXCEED AND TOTAL KAR SHALL NOT EXCEED 1/2.
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WHEN THE MARGIN KAR DOES NOT EX-
CEED 1/2 THE TOTAL KAR SHALL NOT
EXCEED 1/2.

A SINGLE NARROW FACE OR SPIKE KNOT
SHALL NOT EXCEED 1/3 KAR; TOTAL
KAR SHALL NOT EXCEED 1/2.

SLOPE OF GRAIN	1 IN 8
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RATE OF GROWTH	NO RESTRICTIONS.
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FISSURES

NOT THROUGH	900 MM OR 1/4 LENGTH WHICHEVER IS THE GREATER.
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THROUGH	NOT MORE THAN 600 MM. IF AT THE ENDS LIMITED TO A LENGTH OF NOT MORE THAN 1-1/2 TIMES THE WIDTH OF THE PIECE.
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WANE	1/3 OF THE THICKNESS, 1/3 OF THE WIDTH, FULL LENGTH. IN ADDITION
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1/2 THE THICKNESS AND/OR WIDTH
PERMITTED FOR 1/4 LENGTH.

DISTORTION

SPRING LIMITS AS SET OUT IN TABLE (A).
BOW LIMITS AS SET OUT IN TABLE (B).
CUP LIMITS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 1 MM PER
25'MM OF WIDTH.
TWIST LIMITS AS SET OUT IN TABLE (C).

PITCH POCKETS AND
INBARK

NOT THROUGH THE UNLIMITED, IF SHORTER THAN THE
THICKNESS WIDTH OF THE PIECE, OTHERWISE,
THE SAME LIMITS AS FOR SIZE OF
FISSURES.

THROUGH THE UNLIMITED, IF SHORTER THAN HALF
THICKNESS THE WIDTH OF THE PIECE, OTHERWISE,
THE SAME LIMITS AS FOR SIZE OF
FISSURES.

INSECT DAMAGE WORM HOLES AND PIN HOLES ARE
PERMITTED TO A SLIGHT EXTENT IN A
FEW PIECES.
NO ACTIVE INFESTATION IS PERMITTED
WOOD WASP HOLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

LIMITATION FOR SPRING IN EC2

WIDTHS(MM) 75 100 125 150 175 200 225 250 275 300

LENTH
LENGTHS

1.80 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 - - -
2.10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 -
2.40 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
2.70 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

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3.00 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6
3.30 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8
3.60 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10
3.90 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12
4.20 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14

4.50	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16
4.80	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18
5.10	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20
5.40	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
5.70	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24
6.00	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26
6.30	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28
6.60	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30
6.90	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	31
7.20	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34

TABLE B

LIMITATION FOR BOW IN EC 2 GRADE
(MM)

THICKNESS RANGES (MM) 38 - 74 75 & OVER

LENGTHS (M)

TABLE C

LIMITS FOR TWIST IN EC2 GRADES
(MM)

WIDTH (MM) 75 100 125 150 175 200 225
THICKNESS RANGES (MM)

38 MM & THICKER 10 14 18 22 26 30 34

WIDTH (MM) 250 275 300

CONTD.

THICKNESS RANGES (MM) 38 42 46

38 MM & THICKER

CONTD.

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DISTORTION

SPRING -- TABLE A: PROPOSED LIMITS FOR EC2 COVER LENGTH FROM 1.8 TO 7.2 M AND WIDTHS FROM 75 TO 300 MM. THE TABLE INDICATES THAT IF PIECES ARE NARROWER AND LONGER THE AMOUNT IS PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED AND CONVERSELY, IF PIECES ARE WIDER AND SHORTER THE AMOUNT OF SPRING PERMITTED IS DECREASED. INITIAL POINT OF REFERENCE IS LENGTH OF 2.4 M WITH WIDTH OF 75 MM WHERE MAXIMUM SPRING IS 11 MM. THEN FOR EVERY 0.3 M INCREASE IN LENGTH THE MAXIMUM SPRING ALLOWANCE IS INCREASED BY 2 MM, WHILE FOR EACH 25 MM INCREASE IN WIDTH THE MAXIMUM SPRING ALLOWANCE IS DECREASED BY 1 MM.

BOW -- TABLE B: BOW IN EC2 IS LIMITED TO TWO THICKNESS RANGES OF 38 MM TO 74 MM AND 75 MM AND OVER. INITIAL POINT OF REFERENCE FOR THE 38 MM -- 74 MM RANGE IS 2.4 M LENGTH WHERE THE MAXIMUM BOW IS 20 MM. FOR EVERY 0.3 INCREASE IN LENGTH THE MAXIMUM BOW INCREASE ALLOWANCE IS 7.5 MM. FOR THE THICKNESS RANGE 75 MM AND THICKER, AT THE REFERENCE POINT OF 2.4 M THE MAXIMUM BOW IS 10 MM, WITH A 2.5 MM INCREASE IN MAXIMUM BOW ALLOWANCE FOR EVERY 0.3 M INCREASE IN LENGTH.

TWIST -- TABLE C: FOR ALL THICKNESSES, 38 MM AND THICKER, THE INITIAL POINT OF REFERENCE IS AT 75 MM WIDTH WITH A MAXIMUM TWIST ALLOWANCE OF 10 MM. FOR EACH 25 MM INCREASE IN WIDTH THE MAXIMUM TWIST ALLOWANCE IS INCREASED BY 4 MM. TWIST IS ASSESSED OVER A 3 M. LENGTH.

ROBINSON

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